

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, CA, US
SUBJECT: CP STORY ON MARITIME BOUNDARY AND FISHERIES
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: OTTAWA 1345

FOLLOWING IS EXPANDED VERSION OF CP WIRE STORY REPORTED
REFTEL:

"THE FATE OF TALKS TO SETTLE OCEAN BOUNDARY DISPUTES
BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN PLACED
IN LIMBO WHILE THE TWO GOVERNMENTS MAKE SOME TOUGH
POLITICAL DECISIONS, OFFICIALS SAID THURSDAY.

"CANADIAN AND U.S. NEGOTIATORS BROKE OFF EARLIER THIS
WEEK THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO FOUR OVER-
LAPPING BOUNDARY CLAIMS ARISING FROM 200-MILE LIMITS.
BUT THEY WANT TO RESUME TALKS LATER IN THE YEAR, OFFICIALS
SAID.

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"THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WOULD 'START THE EMBRYO OF WHAT
THEY'VE AGREED TO THIS FAR BEING IMPLEMENTED' WHILE THE
NEGOTIATORS WORK OUT THE REMAINING DETAILS LATER.

"THE EMBRYO INCLUDES JOINT FISHERIES COMMISSIONS FOR BOTH
COASTS WHICH WOULD REGULATE FISH STOCKS IN DISPUTED

WATERS AND ADJACENT AREAS AND PROVIDE SHARED ACCESS
ZONES FOR HYDROCARBON RESOURCE EXPLORATION.

"THE TOUGH DECISIONS ARE BELIEVED TO BE ON WHAT CON-
CESSIONS ON THE BOUNDARY LINES ARE POLITICALLY
ACCEPTABLE TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

"THE U.S. CONGRESS IS GOING THROUGH A BITTER DEBATE ON
A TREATY TO TURN OVER THE PANAMA CANAL TO PANAMA. THE
FEDERAL AND NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENTS WILL LIKELY CALL
ELECTIONS LATER THIS YEAR AND OFFICIALS HAVE SUGGESTED
THE DECISIONS MIGHT BETTER WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE VOTING.

"MARCEL CADIEUX, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EUROPEAN
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND LLOYD CUTLER, A WASHINGTON LAWYER,
HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER ON THE DIS-
PUTED BOUNDARIES, ALL THE PRODUCT OF THE 200-MILE
FISHERIES ZONES THE TWO COUNTRIES PRECLAIMED IN 1977.

"THEY HAVE TWICE GONE PAST DEADLINES AND ARE BELIEVED
TO HAVE NARROWED THE ISSUES TO A BOUNDARY LINE FOR
GEORGES BANK IN THE GULF OF MAINE AND SEVERAL RELATED
FISHERIES PROBLEMS. THERE IS ALSO CONTENTION OVER A
PROPOSED LINE FOR THE DIXON ENTRANCE AREA BETWEEN THE
ALASKAN PANHANDLE AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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"THE TWO NEGOTIATORS HAVE HANDED A JOINT REPORT TO THEIR
GOVERNMENTS. THEY SAY THEY STILL BELIEVE THEY COULD
NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT.

"OFFICIALS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT SETTLEMENT IS IN PART
STALLED BY A DEADLOCK OVER THE GEORGES BANK LINE.
CANADA CLAIMS THE NORTHEASTERN CORNER OF THE RICH
FISHING GROUNDS BY VIRTUE OF A LINE EQUIDISTANT FROM
THE TWO COASTLINES. BUT THE U.S. SAYS THE LINE SHOULD
RUN THROUGH THE FUNDIAN CHANNEL LEAVING THE BANK ENTIRELY
IN THE AMERICAN ZONE."

EMBASSY COMMENT: SO FAR ONLY ABBREVIATED VERSION OF CP
WIRE ITEM HAS APPEARED IN GLOBE AND MAIL.
ENDERS

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